

Louisville Swamp Trails

State Trail Access Trail (1.0 mi., linear) - From the main parking area, this trail is straight and level. After 0.75 mile, it reaches a junction with the Jabs Farm trail. Turn right, and the State Trail is 1/4 mile further.

Mazomani Trail (4.5 mi., loop) - Start at main parking area. The trail heads for a bluff (0.25 mi.), then a junction with the loop portion (0.5). Stay left, passing the Ehmler home site, bottomland forest, then a crossing of Sand Creek (0.8 mi.). The trail winds through upland forest, crosses a small creek, and then passes low wetlands until it meets Middle Road.

The Mazomani Trail cannot be completed from this point. You must use the detour to hike a loop around the swamp. At Middle Road, follow the trail to Flood's Road and turn right. After 0.2 miles Flood's road will fork. Turn left and follow Flood's Road to the State Trail. Turn right and follow the state trail north. The State Trail will fork. Follow the access trail back to the parking lot. See the Carver Rapids inset map for the route around the swamp.

State Trail (5.0 mi., linear) - From the north refuge boundary, the trail shortly passes the Access Trail, then drops steeply down a slope to cross a bridge over Sand Creek. It veers west to meet and follow the river, shortly entering and remaining in bottomland forest. After passing a view of Johnson Slough, the trail passes a small canoe-in campground, then a junction with Flood's Road, then a junction with Middle Road. After about 1/4 mile, the trail follows the river for most of the rest of its course through the refuge.

About The Unit

Getting There



Our parking lots have addresses, to assist you in locating them.

The Louisville Swamp Unit is one of the largest and most diverse areas of the refuge. It includes marsh, lakes, streams, oak savannah, restored prairie, rock formations, bottomland forest, and upland forest. It is also one of the most isolated areas of the refuge, offering a setting more distant from urban influences. The Carver Rapids Unit, part of the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area (DNR), is located entirely within the Louisville Swamp Unit.

Visitors can access Louisville Swamp in the following ways:

- Main parking area (3801 145th St. West, Shakopee 55379):* South of Shakopee, follow HWY 169 past HWY 41 (to Chaska) and turn right on 145th St. The parking area is just beyond the entrance to Renaissance Fair.
- State Corridor Trail:* The trail follows a continuous route from near Jordan to Shakopee, passing through the refuge for about 3 miles.. Main access points are just east of the Minnesota River bridge along HWY 41 east of Chaska (watch for the signs), the main Louisville Swamp parking area (via the Access Trail), and the Thompson Ferry Landing, just north of Jordan on CR 9.
- Middle Road (16210 Jordan Ave., Jordan 55352):* This hunter access links with several refuge trails. Head south on Hwy. 169 (towards Jordan), then right on Bluff Drive, then right on Jordan Road. Park next to the fence, walk past the house and turn left past the barn. Keep in mind that you will briefly be passing through private property, and be respectful. The entrance to the refuge is across the railroad tracks.
- Hunter parking areas:* Two additional parking areas are maintained for hunting access (see map for addresses). Gates are open only seasonally, and there are no trails leading from these points.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
3815 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425-1600
952/854 5900

Minnesota Valley’s website address:
<http://midwest.fws.gov/minnesotavalley>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD (9453)
<http://www.fws.gov>

Deaf/hard of hearing individuals may reach Minnesota Valley NWR through the Federal Information Relay System at 1 800/877 8339

Available in alternative formats upon request.



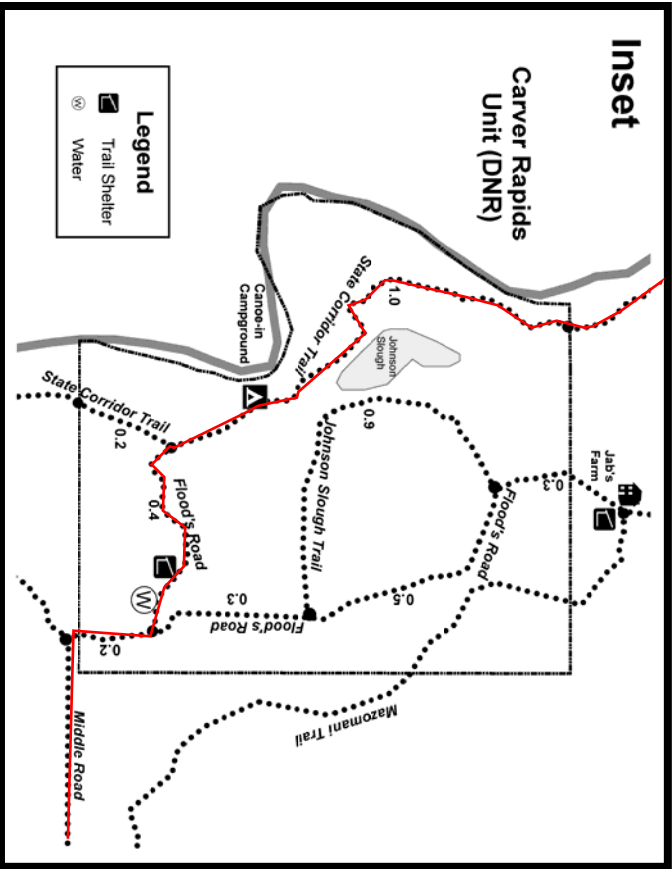
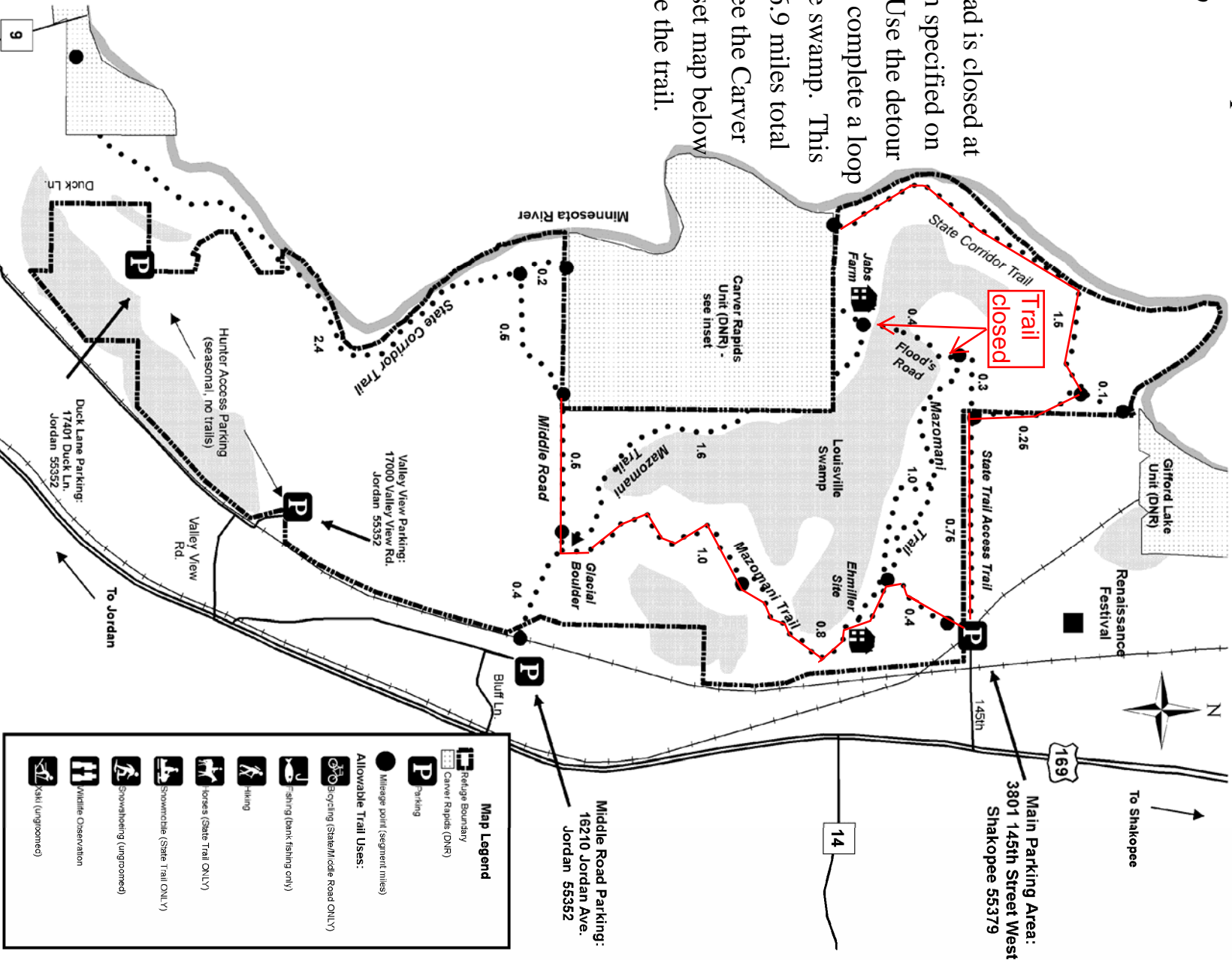
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge
Louisville Swamp Unit Trail Map



Louisville Swamp Unit Trail Map

Flood's road is closed at the section specified on the map. Use the detour (in red) to complete a loop around the swamp. This detour is 6.9 miles total length. See the Carver Rapids inset map below to continue the trail.



Carver Rapids Trails
Section Closed-See Map
Flood's Road (1.5 mi., linear) - From Jab's Farm, this trail heads south, passing a junction with Johnson Slough Trail (twice), then passes through savannah and down a slope, turning right. It then passes a water pump (for drinking) and a shelter before ending at the State Trail.

Johnson Slough (1.5 mi., linear) - This trail leaves Flood's Road from two junctions, and can be used in loop fashion in conjunction with that trail. It courses through upland oak forest, passing by an overlook of Johnson Slough.

For your safety and to protect and preserve the refuge, please obey all regulations.
Pets must be on a leash at all times.